

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY S:LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
APPROVED BY S - MR. EAGLEBURGER
S/S - MR. MILLER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110860

TOSEC 1060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: LETTER FROM MONDALE, MCINTYRE AND MATHIAS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF A LETTER DELIVERED TO ME FOR
YOU LATE YESTERDAY EVENING:

BEGIN TEXT DEAR MR. SECRETARY: THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAS REQUESTED AUTHORITY TO PURSUE A NUMBER OF PROGRAMS
WHICH WOULD INCREASE THE ABILITY OF OUR STRATEGIC MISSILE
FORCES TO EFFECTIVELY ATTACK SOVIET ICBMS. THESE PROGRAMS
INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO DOUBLING THE POWER AND
ACCURACY OF OUR MINUTEMAN III ICBM WARHEADS.

SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THESE PROGRAMS
HAVE IMPORTANT AND ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATION-
SHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND FOR STRATEGIC STABILITY.
FROM THE STANDPOINT OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR OUR
FOREIGN RELATIONS AS WELL AS YOUR PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE ON
STRATEGIC ISSUES, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THESE PROGRAMS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION
TO THOSE RELATING TO THE MINUTEMAN III. IN PARTICULAR, WE
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WOULD LIKE TO KNOW YOUR VIEWS ON:

-- WHETHER THESE PROGRAMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO STABILITY
IN A CRISIS OR INCREASE THE PREMIUM FOR A FIRST STRIKE;

-- WHETHER THESE PROGRAMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE SURVIV-
ABILITY OF OUR DETERRENT FORCES;

--WHETHER THESE PROGRAMS CAN BE CONTROLLED IN SALT, AND
EFFECTIVELY MONITORED BY NATIONAL MEANS BY THE SOVIET
UNION;

--WHETHER THESE PROGRAMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE, TO
THE EASING OF TENSIONS, OR WHETHER THEY WILL CALL INTO
QUESTION OUR INTENTIONS AND THEREBY EXACERBATE RELATIONS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

YOUR RESPONSE TO THIS LETTER WILL BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL
BEFORE THE SENATE ACTS UPON THE MILITARY PROCUREMENT
AUTHORIZATION BILL. SINCERELY, WALTER F. MONDALE,
THOMAS J. MCINTYRE, CHARLES MCC. MATHIAS, JR. END TEXT

2. FOLLOWING IS A UPI ITEM APPEARING THIS AFTERNOON
ON THE LETTER:

BEGIN TEXT THREE SENATE LIBERALS SAID SATURDAY THEY HAVE
ASKED SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER TO EXPLAIN HOW
A CONTROVERSIAL PENTAGON PLAN TO BUILD "SILO KILLER" WAR-
HEADS FOR THE MINUTEMAN MISSILE WILL IMPROVE EITHER
U.S. SECURITY OR DETENTE WITH RUSSIA.

THE THREE, SENS. WALTER MONDALE, D-MINN., THOMAS MCINTYRE,
D-N.M., AND CHARLES MATHIAS, R-MD., PUBLISHED A LETTER
THEY SENT KISSINGER LAST WEEK. THEY ASKED A REPLY BEFORE
THE SENATE VOTES ON THE PLAN IN JULY.

THE LIBERALS FEAR THAT APPROVING THE PLAN FOR HIGHLY
ACCURATE, VERY LARGE WARHEADS COULD DESTABILIZE THE ARMS
RACE BY GIVING MOSCOW THE IDEA THE U.S. COULD BE SEEKING
A "FIRST STRIKE" CAPABILITY TO DESTROY SOVIET MISSILES IN
THEIR SILOS.

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MONDALE'S AIDES SAID THE LETTER MARKED THE OPENING
OF A CAMPAIGN TO KILL THE PENTAGON PROPOSAL IN THE SENATE.
IT WAS APPROVED WEDNESDAY BY THE HOUSE.

THEY SAID THE CAMPAIGN WILL PRIMARILY BE LED BY MCINTYRE,
WHO TRIED TO KILL THE WARHEAD PROPOSALS IN THE ARMED
SERVICES COMMITTEE, BUT WAS OUTVOTED BY CONSERVATIVES.

THE BRIEF LETTER SAID SIMPLY THAT "SUBSTANTIAL CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT THESE PROGRAMS HAVE IMPORTANT AND ADVERSE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION, AND FOR STRATEGIC STABILITY." IT ASKED KISSINGER TO ANSWER FOUR QUESTIONS:

--WHETHER THE WARHEADS WOULD NOT "INCREASE THE PREMIUM FOR A FIRST STRIKE" IN A CRISIS.

-- WHETHER THEY WOULD IN ANY WAY CONTRIBUTE TO THE SURVIVABILITY OF U.S. RETALIATION FORCES.

--WHETHER THERE WAS ANY WAY TO CONTROL SUCH WARHEAD DEVELOPMENT THROUGH CURRENT STRATEGIC AGREEMENTS.

--WHETHER THESE PROGRAMS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO DETENTE, TO THE EASING OF TENSIONS, OR WHETHER THEY WILL ... EXACERBATE RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE AIDES SAID THE THREE SENATORS FEEL THAT ALTHOUGH KISSINGER IS THE ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERT ON U.S.-RUSSIAN RELATIONS AND THE STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS, IT IS DEFENSE SECRETARY JAMES SCHLESINGER WHO HAS BEEN THE MAIN ADVOCATE OF THE NEW WARHEADS.

KISSINGER HAS DISCUSSED THEM ONLY AT NEWS CONFERENCES, THEY NOTED. WHILE HE HAS INDICATED HE FAVORS BETTER ACCURACY AND A MORE FLEXIBLE U.S. TARGETING DOCTRINE, HE HAS NEVER REALLY EXPLAINED WHY THE UNITED STATES NEEDS BIGGER WARHEADS UNLESS IT IS SEEKING A SILO-BUSTING CAPABILITY. END TEXT

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3. FYI THE LETTER WAS DRAFTED BY AND ON THE INITIATIVE OF YOUR FORMER MINIONDAVID AARON. BROWN

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